



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment

Report for period 1 July – 30 September 2014

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site Inspectors from ONR usually attend the Dounreay Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

The majority of sites inspected by ONR are licensed under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended). Vulcan NRTE is not a licensed site although it operates under Authorisation from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). The site is adjacent to the Dounreay licensed site and is regulated by ONR through other legislation as noted below. This report summarises ONR inspection and other regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR. From the beginning of April 2014 ONR is the sole regulator for conventional safety on the Vulcan NRTE Authorised Site.

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

During this period no inspections were undertaken by ONR. However, preparations were made for an inspection regarding emergency arrangements. That inspection is due to take place in November 2014.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99), the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPiR), and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99). Whilst no inspections were undertaken by ONR during this period, other intervention activities were undertaken as summarised below.

ONR reported in the last quarterly report that the site had produced a new REPPiR Report of Assessment (ROA) which ONR received towards the end of the last reporting period. With DNSR's support, ONR are currently undertaking a technical assessment of the ROA. Once that assessment is complete ONR will review the off-site planning area as per REPPiR 9(1).

In August, ONR Inspectors attended a meeting with Highland Council, Dounreay Sites Restoration Ltd (DSRL) and Vulcan NRTE. DSRL and NRTE Vulcan have separate off-site emergency plans prepared by Highland Council. Both sites undertake Level 2 exercises to demonstrate the adequacy of the arrangements made by the local authority to deal with the off-site aspects of an emergency. Highland Council is taking credit for testing some parts of the off-site plan for one site whilst undertaking a Level 2 exercise for the other site, with remaining aspects tested by other appropriate means. This allows the sites to alternate the hosting of Level 2 exercises that are undertaken to satisfy legal requirements to test the off-site plan at a suitable interval not exceeding three years. During the meeting ONR made clear its expectation that Highland Council should demonstrate how the relevant aspects of both off-site plans are adequately exercised over a three year period, and Highland Council agreed to provide ONR with the necessary clarification.

2.2 Other work

No activities were undertaken this quarter.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR inspectors may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. No such documents were issued during this period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/onr-quarterly-report.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

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